

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 07457 171805Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 SAB-02 AID-05 TRSE-00
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O R 171718Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4156
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 7457

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA O R 171717Z OCT 77 SENT ACTION
USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY.--ALL PAPERS OCT. 15 LEAD FRONT PAGES WITH CARTER-
TORRIJOS MEETING, EMPHASIZING TORRIJOS STATEMENTS THAT HE SIGNED NO
NEW AGREEMENTS. PRO-GOP CRITICA HEADED UNATTRIBUTED STORY,
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"TORRIJOS DID NOT EVEN SIGN HIS NAME IN MEETING WITH JIMMY CARTER,"
WHILE PRO-GOP MATUTINO HEADED LOCAL CORRESPONDENT'S STORY, "TORRIJOS
SAYS 'I DID NOT EVEN SIGN MY NAME.'" SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA
AND ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD CARRIED AP ITEMS, ESTRELLA HEAD
READING, "DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION ON NEW TREATY SUCCESSFULLY
RESOLVED." STAR AND HERALD HEADS STORY, "TORRIJOS: DEFENSE YES,
NO INTERVENTION RIGHTS."

2-LA ESTRELLA OCT. 15 P. 28 CARRIES EFE CABLE WITH TEXT OF OCT. 14 JOINT STATEMENT, THE ONLY PUBLICATION OF THE STATEMENT THUS FAR IN PANAMA.

3-OCT. 16 ESTRELLA CARRIES BETTY ANNE WILLIAMS AP STORY FRONT PAGE, "POSSIBILITIES OF RATIFICATION IMPROVE AFTER TORRIJOS-CARTER MEETING ON NEW TREATY; FAVORABLE REACTION AMONG SENATORS," WITH COLOR PHOTO OF TWO CHIEFS OF STATE.

4-OCT. 15 MATUTINO COLUMNIST RICARDO LINCE SAYS THAT CARTER HOPED TO GET FROM MEETING "A CLARIFICATION ON EXTENT OF RIGHT OF US TO TAKE ACTION TO MAINTAIN CANAL OPEN...AND CLARIFICATION TO BE SURE THERE IS COMMON ACCORD ON WHAT TREATY SIGNIFIES. BUT TORRIJOS PREFERS TO SPEAK TO PANAMANIAN PEOPLE AND CONCENTRATE ON SPIRIT WHICH PREVAILED AT SIGNING, CLARITY OF PANAMANIAN POSITION AS TO REJECTION OF ALL INTERVENTION IN PANAMA. IT IS EVIDENT THAT ENEMIES OF TREATY ARE TRYING TO INTRODUCE...CONFUSION AND ELIMINATE CLIMATE OF UNDERSTANDING, OF PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION WHICH IS DESTROYING COLONIALIST POLICY."

5-LINCE BELIEVES THAT "WHAT IS WANTED IN HEART OF SENATE COMMITTEE...IS TO SOW DOUBTS AND CONFUSION IN VERY EVE OF TIME IN WHICH PANAMANIAN PEOPLE PREPARE THEMSELVES TO EXPRESS OPINION ON TREATY IN PLEBISCITE."

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6-CRITICA COLUMNIST CAMILO PEREZ OCT. 15 ONCE AGAIN CALLS TREATIES "MOST IMPERFECT IN ALL HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES." PEREZ CONTINUES, "NO MATTER WHAT WE HAVE SAID EARLIER, IT IS ALSO CERTAIN THAT ANGUISH WILL END IN YEAR 1999, AND IT WILL BE THEN THAT THIS OTHER TREATY GOES INTO EFFECT, ON PERMANENT NEUTRALITY, WHICH CERTAINLY CONSTITUTES AN AMBIGUITY AND A COMPROMISING MESSAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS." PEREZ SAYS TREATIES "ARE DRESSED IN HYPOCRACY...FAR FROM REALITY; IT IS UP TO US TO BE REALISTS."

7-THE ONLY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED SUNDAY EDITION, LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL, MADE NO MENTION OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED FRIDAY EVENING IN WASHINGTON. DOMINICAL'S LEAD STORY INSTEAD DEALT WITH THE PARALIZATION OF THE PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY FOR WHAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE GORGAS MEMORIAL LABORATORY TERMED THE "INTERNATIONAL BLACKMAIL" OF U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS.

8-THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS OCTOBER 17 FINALLY RECOGNIZED THE EXISTENCE OF THE JOINT STATEMENT WITH PAGE ONE TREATMENT OF WASHINGTON EFE JUAN ROLDAN BYLINER WITH VIRTUALLY THE SAME HEADING IN BOTH MATUTINO AND CRITICA: "PROSPECTS IMPROVE FOR SENATE RATIFICATION OF TREATY." A CAREFUL READING OF THE STORY

IN BOTH PAPERS REVEALS THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL CHANGES: THE CRITICA VERSION REPORTS, "THE COMMUNIQUE, FOR AMERICAN CONSUMPTION, SAYS IN THE SUMMARY. . . , "THE MATUTINO VERSION SAYS, "THE COMMUNIQUE, FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS, SAYS IN SUMMARY. . ." (ACCORDING TO THE EFE BUREAU, THE WORD BEFORE "CONSUMPTION" WAS GARBLED AND THE TWO PAPERS SUPPLIED THEIR OWN ADJECTIVES.)

9-MATUTINO OCTOBER 17 ALSO RAN FULL TEXT OF AMBASSADOR JORDEN'S SFRC TESTIMONY WITH A TWO COLUMN PHOTO OF JORDEN AND THE HEADING: "WILLIAM JORDEN AFFIRMS: PANAMA IS CAPABLE OF ADMINISTERING THE CANAL."

10-COLUMNIST CAMILO O. PEREZ, WRITING ON GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED

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CRITICA OP-ED PAGE, CONTINUES HIS ATTACK ON THE TREATIES. REFERRING TO THE "MARRIAGE THT THE GRINGOS SO EASILY ARRANGED BETWEEN THE NEUTRALITY TREATY AND THE CANAL TREATY," PEREZ COMMENTS THAT THOSE WHO THOUGHT THE AMERICANS STUPID WERE WRONG AND FURTHERMORE, "WE LOOK LIKE CLEAN SHAVEN YOUTH NEXT TO THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS." ONE POINT WHICH PEREZ SAYS STILL NEEDS CLARIFYING IS WHETHER THE U.S. CAN USE THE PANAMANIAN AIR BASE AT RIO HATO TO DEFEND THE CANAL IN AN EMERGENCY AND ANOTHER REFERS TO ARTICLE 9, SECTION 3 WHICH "ACCEPTS THAT THE U.S. IS OWNER OF THE REAL ESTATE IN THE CANAL ZONE," A CLAUSE WHICH PEREZ CALLS "UNJURIDICAL, DECEPTIVE AND CONTRADICTIONARY." ITEM UNQUOTE GONZALEZ

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